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3 May 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2495

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BRIEFS

MEXICAN, CANADIAN NUCLEAR MEETING--Guadalajara, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)--Representatives of the Canadian firm "Canada's Atomic Energy" will meet on 11 May with Jalisco industrialists to plan subcontracting programs, a local industrial organization has announced. The Chamber of Guadalajara's Metal Industry stated that the Canadians are interested in coinvestments with Mexican firms to produce nucleoelectric reactors of the Candu system. Canada is one of the applicants for supplying materials to the Mexican nucleoelectric program, which will provide 25 percent of the electricity with nuclear systems by the year 2000. The Canadian firm is interested in supplying support, technical assistance and financing for the creation in Jalisco of a side industry for the peaceful use of the atom, the chamber added. The Mexican industries most interested in this, it said, are the metal mechanics (metalmecanica) and automotive. [Text] [FL202037 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1404

DIRECTOR OF YACYRETA BINATIONAL ENTERPRISES RESIGNS

PY311440 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 27 Mar 82 p 8

[Editorial: "Montiel Forzano's Resignation"]

[Text] The resignation of Gen Lino Montiel Forzano, executive director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise, unveils the harsh reality of the conceptual chaos into which Argentina has fallen during this stage of the so-called--we often wonder why--"process of national reorganization."

The text of the resignation has been disseminated in an unprecedented fashion. There is no need to read anything between its lines to discover hidden thoughts. On the contrary, it says in a forthright way that nobody seems to know what he wants for Argentina, let alone for the region. There are no goals. No plans, no objectives. There are no clear ideas and, probably, what is even worse, there are no ideas at all.

The strategy presumably maintained by the Argentine administration is apparently intended to suppress all strategies. In other words, this is a genuine paradox that could have been taken from one of G.K. Chesterton's short stories. The need for drawing up a clear geopolitical concept that will sustain a policy of development for the country and for the region has apparently been disregarded.

At times, it seems there are persons who continue to believe that the port of Buenos Aires is still the axis of the region, and that is the place where policy is dictated by a short-sighted customs criterion, thus affecting all the region depending on its wharfs. This is exactly the same as when the vessels of the Mihanovich [Company] painfully sailed the long route between the cities of Buenos Aires and Asuncion, bringing to us a cultural model, a political philosophy and a rule of behavior.

But nobody can enter the time tunnel and refuse to accept that the years have passed. As a matter of fact, the years have passed. It would be foolish denying this reality. However, throughout the worn out Yacyreta hydroelectric project, the Argentine approach has been stalwartly reticent about admitting that simple truth. This has seriously hurt the project's work plan, thus turning it into a whimsical and senseless project.

Montiel Forzano states that he had resigned three times and that, consequently, this was the fourth and last time. He asserts that after 9 months of negotiations he could not see any other outcome than to submit his irrevocable resignation. He also asserts that Lt Gen Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri has been in power for 3 months and that he has not yet received "any guidelines regarding intentions and outlined objectives, except what is related to budgetary retrenchement" with regard to the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise.

This fact indicates that Montiel Forzano has been badly mocked and that the responsibility for the notorious incoherences of the Yacyreta project falls on persons who are at a much higher level. Montiel Forzano also made an alarming statement, namely that he had been "systematically excluded from the commissions and meetings held to study the future of the enterprise and of the work."

This means that the Yacyreta project has been a confidential subject handled by commissions and by mysterious groups that met behind closed doors, without the participation of the Argentine representatives. Why the mystery? What are the reasons for such strange behavior? Why was General Montiel Forzano given such a poor role as the president of a state enterprise who did not know what was being decided regarding its future? Why did they allow him to be ridiculed on more than one occasion forced to admit his unawareness of what was going on?

The answers may prove many of the suspicions. All these questions are raised in view of the increasingly vehement doubts regarding the seriousness with which the Argentine Government is approaching the Yacyreta project. This is especially so in view of the doubts about the integrity and competence of the enterprise. General Montiel Forzano's letter is an unequivocal corollary of these questions.

CSO: 3010/1402

PARAGUAYAN NEWSPAPER CRITICIZES ARGENTINE MAGAZINE

'Forged History' Deplored

PY140239 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Apr 82 p 8

[Editorial: "When History is Forged"]

[Text] The Argentine magazine GENTE in its latest "special issue" of 8 April 1982 about the occupation of the Malvinas or Falklands Islands reproduces ten color maps of the southern cone with alleged territories lost or given up by that nation since 1810. These maps, published by P.H. Randle and R.R. Balmaceda, Editorial Oikos, are the ones used by the children of the sister republic to learn a forged history.

Since 1810--says GENTE--"...when the fatherland was born, the territory of the nation was cut off several times. This is how every map outlines history. There were ten border problems; Argentina was never favored in the conflicts resolved by awards and the resource of arms were used on few occasions."

By looking at the map published on the front page on the left, we Paraguayans realize that when the country got its independence in 1811, it got it from Argentina and not from Spain and that the only portion of the territory under national sovereignty was the eastern region in addition to some territory given to Brazil after the war of the triple alliance.

By looking at the map of the right we realize that the Argentine republic generously gave Paraguay, as a gift, its current Chaco territory either by the 1876 treaty or the 1878 award. This means that by the 3 February 1876 treaty, the Argentine republic, victorious in a devastating war "against the tyrant Lopez"--in an altruist gesture--gave territory to Paraguay. In reality, by simple logic, it was the other way around: Argentina took over the rich territory between the rivers Bermejo and Pilcomayo, a territory already recognized under Paraguayan sovereignty during the Carlos Antonio Lopez administration.

Following GENTE's account, this would have been the first case in history when a country victorious in a war gave to the loser more than 200,000 square kilometers of territory without any discussion.

The Argentine republic is doing itself little favor at a time when--in search for solidarity of the Americas as a result of the recovery of the Malvinas-- it resorts to forged history to justify its present attitude. In our case--excluding the territories cut off by that country in the last century--there is an extensive territory still occupied in the Pilcomayo areas since 1938 and the diversion of the Pilcomayo River which indicate that the Argentine attitude is not in consonance or agreement with the principle of international solidarity it claims for itself.

Argentine Embassy Statement

PY1-0529 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Apr 82 p 8

[Text] The press and culture department of the Argentine Embassy this morning issued a communique with regard to an article published by the magazine GENTE which affects Paraguay.

The text of the communique states: "The embassy of the Republic of Argentina deplores an article published by the magazine GENTE--which is published in Buenos Aires by a private enterprise--in its 8 April special issue.

"This article carries a number of maps which supposedly indicate the territories lost by Argentina. In this respect, it is proper to state that those maps are not in keeping with historical reality, do not reflect the views of the Argentine Government and do not reflect the feelings of the Argentine people."

The communique adds: "This is also the view of the ambassador, Gen Carlos Enrique Laidlaw, who was extremely disturbed by this publication which is widely disseminated among us."

CS1: 3010/1401

PARAGUAYAN PAPER COMMENTS ON ARGENTINE POLITICAL PROSPECTS

PY150128 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Apr 82 p 8

[Editorial: "The Malvinas and Argentine Political Prospects"]

[Text] The panorama of the Argentine situation toward the end of last month was not very encouraging. Its old and complex political problems--dating from decades back--have been affected by growing economic problems with their consequent repercussions in the lives of the people in that country. The discredit of the military government now taking its turn in power was growing and it seemed that it was spreading from people in government to the members of the Argentine armed forces. Popular discontent created by the progressive reduction of real salaries, inflation and unemployment was already revealed in the streets of Buenos Aires and the government response--solely a strong show of force by the police--presaged the worsening of the country's internal tension.

Under the above circumstances, the occupation of the Malvinas Islands--carried out by surprise on 2 April through a sudden armed forces' attack--brought about a sudden and drastic change in the internal situation. The Argentine people, who lived long years under the offer of the illegitimate British occupation of those islands, immediately closed ranks behind its government, and all of the country's problems--for the moment at least--have become of secondary importance although, naturally, they have by no means been solved.

The new internal situation, raised by the "Malvinas invasion" [Malvinazo]--as they call it in Argentina--is, however, appropriate for the neighboring country to search for far-reaching solutions to its political problems. It could even be thought that this international action, although linked to an old controversy, may have been carried out at that precise moment with the purpose--perhaps with the main purpose--of creating internal conditions under which the government could achieve a sort of national political agreement.

Should this be the case, it would be of course a quite dangerous way of searching for internal solutions (and of strengthening the present government), but it may have been, at the same time, the only way to find some hope for establishing the foundations for an efficient political plan, given the circumstances prevailing in Argentina.

Even though the procedure followed by Argentina to recover the Malvinas deserves strong disapproval, since force neither gives nor improves rights, the attempts undertaken by Argentina to implement a project to restore institutional life as prescribed by its constitution is worthy of Paraguayan approval, and not only based on moral reasons, even though those reasons might be strong enough by themselves. Making a small correction to the famous (although Argentina seldom appreciates it) statement made by a statesman of the Argentine past who said that Paraguayan prosperity is an Argentine interest, from here it could well be said that a healthy Argentine political life is also a Paraguayan interest.

CSO: 3010/1401

BRIEFS

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR MEETS PARAGUAYAN MINISTER--The Ministry of Foreign Relations has delivered the following note to the press: Maj Gen Carlos Enrique Laidlaw, Argentine ambassador to Paraguay, yesterday visited the Paraguayan foreign minister to explain to him the Argentine Government's position regarding the matter which is known to the public. In reply to the Argentine ambassador, the foreign minister limited himself to voicing the natural concern of the Paraguayan Government over such an event, along with its desire that the issue be solved under the principles of peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the claims by the parties in the dispute. [Text] [PY061802 Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1630 GMT 6 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1401

BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA--Belmopan, Belize, 20 Apr (CANA)--Nigeria has formally established diplomatic relations with Belize. Mr P. U. Onyige yesterday presented his credentials to governor, Dr Minita Gordon in Belmopan, to become his country's first non-resident high commissioner to Belize. Mr Onyige is also Nigeria's permanent ambassador to Mexico. During the ceremony, Mr Onyige said that Nigeria wanted to maintain close and friendly relations with Belize, despite the geographical distance between the two countries. He added that he would be happy to convey (any) assistance requests from Belize to his country's government. Governor General Gordon, in reply welcomed Nigeria's wish to maintain close relations with Belize. Mr Onyige was accompanied by his wife Kate Onyige, his counsellor, Mr Mustapha Saleh, head of the chancery Mr J.M.H. Omoko, and the administration attache. The visitors also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister George Price. [Text] [FL201559 Bridgetown CANA in English 1527 GMT 20 Apr 82]

CSO: 3020/103

FUTURE MINISTERS EXPLAIN POSITION ON PASTORA

PA230437 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Text] An official communique issued this afternoon by Fernando Volio and Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon, the future foreign and public security ministers, states that the next government will strictly respect the peoples' right to self-determination and the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries. Therefore, they add, they will not comment on Eden Pastora's statement about Nicaragua's domestic policy. In reciprocity, the new government will demand strict respect for Costa Rica's sovereignty and its people's inalienable right to decide their future without the interference of any country, the communique states.

The communique, that has the approval of the president-elect, adds that the Monge administration plans to maintain the security and domestic peace which are essential at a time when all efforts must be directed toward rebuilding the economy and strengthening democratic institutions. Nevertheless, the communique states, we are concerned about the possibility that Pastora's remarks, although protected by freedom of expression, might be the prelude to actions that by their nature violate international law and our own legal order, to the detriment of Costa Rica's internal peace and security.

In the final part of the communique, the future foreign and public security ministers state that Costa Rica's laws and its international commitments do not permit people who have taken refuge or asylum in the country to carry out in it or from it political activities dealing with their country of origin.

Solano Calderon has also said that beginning on 8 May, reforms will be introduced to control the activities of foreigners in the country.

CSO: 3010/1421

BRIEFS

U.S. ARMING OF EL SALVADOR CRITICIZED--The weekly LIBERTAD, the organ of the Costa Rican Popular Vanguard Party, has asked the government for an extensive investigation of the statements made by a former CIA agent about the shipment of U.S. weapons to the Salvadoran Army through the Costa Rican Airlines, LACSA. The magazine published a dispatch in which former CIA agent Scott Barnett is quoted as saying that LACSA participated in the shipment of military supplies from the United States to El Salvador. According to the report, Barnett--who was a Green Beret during the dirty Vietnam war and later worked for the CIA--said that tons of armaments are being sent without congressional consent to the Salvadoran junta aboard LACSA planes chartered by the CIA. LIBERTAD stresses that the involvement of the airline is very serious and the people of Costa Rica should be given an immediate explanation. Furthermore, the government must order an exhaustive investigation and punish those guilty of this shameful action. [Text] [PA191704 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1421

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHILE, GUATEMALA DENOUNCED

FL161749 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos--Cuba presented two draft resolutions today at the 130th meeting of the interparliamentary council ending tomorrow in Lagos, Nigeria. The resolutions concern human rights in Guatemala and Chile.

One of the resolutions presented by the people's government national assembly delegation led by its secretary, Jose Aranaburo, denounces the deterioration of human rights and basic freedoms in Guatemala. It accuses the Guatemalan military authorities of repressing demonstrations that reflect the people's discontent thus provoking acts of violence that have moved and concerned world opinion.

The other draft resolution charges that a violent repression exists in Chile against political expression and that the freedom of speech is forbidden and the news media restricted. It adds that the serious problem of the "desaparecidos" continues because despite reiterated promises, Chilean authorities keep refusing to accept responsibility for the disappearance of a large number of people.

CSO: 3010/1398

TAC PRESIDENT GUILLERMO TORIELLO INTERVIEWED

PA181616 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Interview with Guillermo Toriello, president of the Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal, TAC, by Pedro Martinez Pires for Havana International Service, date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] I know that you will soon begin a tour of several countries in the region for the purpose of consolidating the Central American and Caribbean Anti-Imperialist Tribunal. Could you tell us something about it?

[Answer] First, I want to tell my friends at Radio Havana that there is very important news. In Grenada on 13 March this year, as was already reported, the Grenada declaration was issued, under which 12 Caribbean countries joined this tribunal. Now the latest development is that the Haitian committee has massively joined our ranks.

Now I am leaving for Panama with two goals in mind. The first--and this I say as a patriotic Guatemalan--is that the Panamanians with their great internationalist and daring spirit [words indistinct] form Panamanian committee of solidarity with Guatemala. This precisely shows how sensible these people are in understanding that the changes in Guatemala are nothing but changes among gorillas, and that the people continue with their people's revolutionary war. Therefore the Panamanian people will give their full support to our revolutionary tasks.

The other point is that with my Panamanian friends we are going to expand the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal in the Panamanian sector which finally has organized a majority group. These are the two basic tasks. After Panama I intend to visit other areas in the Caribbean, Venezuela, Colombia and the Dominican Republic. I will also have two tasks there: to create solidarity committees with Guatemala and to possibly expand the influence of the Anti-Imperialist Central American and Caribbean Tribunal among the anti-imperialist patriots in these nations.

[Question] I have learned that you will tour the Caribbean shortly after Ronald Reagan tour. What do you think of the results of the U.S. President's visit to Jamaica and Barbados?

[Answer] Well, this is precisely within the imperialist domination policy in our region. While peoples fight for liberation, the imperialists strive to consolidate their economic and political domination in the Caribbean area. However, it is not limited only to official visits, but also to economic pressures. The Reagan plan for aid to Central America and the Caribbean which involves \$350 million is a pittance when compared to President Kennedy's effort to halt Latin American liberation movements--especially the triumph of the Cuban revolution--which included \$20 billion for the alliance for progress which advanced U.S. interests. But anyhow, if we compare this sum with Reagan's \$350 million, of which \$150 million go to El Salvador, there is not enough left for any country to even pay interests on any debts they may have with international banks.

What it does show is the U.S. interest, within its erroneous policy that seeks to dominate countries through economic pressures just as the rich and powerful do against the weak and poor.

[Question] Regarding imperialist activities, I would like to hear your opinion on the latest provocations against Nicaragua, from Honduras and Costa Rica, and about the constant harrassment of the Nicaraguan people, which was protested by its leaders at the United Nations.

[Answer] In this respect I want to say, as a member of the FSLN of which I am very proud, that the Reagan policy, as I have said in other interviews, has a dual nature. On one hand it proposes the eight points for reaching an understanding with Nicaragua. Then, it undercuts any understanding by giving economic and military aid to the more reactionary forces--the Somozist counterrevolutionaries, which also include Cuban worms and Argentines. That is to say, the United States is internationalizing the conflict to attack Nicaragua and destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. The Nicaraguan revolution is irreversible and invincible because every Sandinist is determined to defend the revolution and the nation's sovereignty.

CSO: 3010/1398

PLAYA GIRON VICTORY ANNIVERSARY MARKED

[Editorial Report] FL200223--Havana Domestic Service in Spanish at 0130 GMT on 20 April begins live coverage of commemoration of 21st anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron and the proclamation of the socialist nature of the Cuban revolution, being held at the Universal Hall of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

As coverage opens, the national anthem is played. An announcer explains the reason for the ceremony, and announces that Ramiro Valdes and Pedro Miret Prieto, both members of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo, central committee member Flavio Bravo and others are presiding,

The keynote speaker, Flavio Bravo, is introduced and begins speaking at 0133 GMT. He begins by stressing the significance of the anniversary and what it represents for the Cuban revolutionary movement. He dwells on the economic impact that the revolution had on the country's working masses. He states: "Cuba was the market for U.S. highly-priced products, and a brothel and a gambling den, prior to the triumph of the revolution."

Bravo then goes into the historic details of the events leading to the Giron Beach landing by "counterrevolutionaries trained and financed by the CIA and the Pentagon." He then explains the measures taken by the Cuban Government to repulse the invasion. He praises Fidel Castro for his bright and intelligent leadership.

"In Giron," Bravo stresses, "the Cuban people decided the economic and social system they wanted." He goes on to say that Giron was a landmark for the revolutions in all Latin American countries. He adds that because of Giron, many Latin American peoples are a little bit freer today.

Bravo then says Cuba is strong today but has to remain on the alert, vigilant and ready for any attacks from the enemy. He adds that we have to fight against those who are weak and try to betray the revolution.

In closing, Bravo urges all to support Fidel, the revolution with the same courage that the fatherland was defended at Playa Giron. He says: "Let us make a daily task the slogan of production and defense."

CSO: 3010/1398

AUSTRIAN COMMUNISTS END VISIT; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

FL201948 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1904 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] Franz Muhri, president of the Austrian Communist Party [KPOE] made a 4-day visit to our country at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee. A press communique released on his visit stated that commander in chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC, held a fraternal meeting with the delegation and they discussed matters of interest that will strengthen the ties between the two parties.

The KPOE delegation also included Johann (Slammen), member of the Central Committee.

The two parties briefed each other on their activities toward the strengthening of the international communist movement. It was noted that this visit contributes to the strengthening of ties between the two organizations.

Franz Muhri reiterated the Austrian communists' feelings of solidarity toward the Cuban revolution. Muhri repudiated the threats and acts of aggression carried out by the U.S. Government and came out in favor of ending the illegal occupation of the Guantanamo territory by the naval base.

The Cuban communists, for their part, expressed their appreciation to the KPOE and the democratic and progressive organizations and forces in Austria for their struggle in defense of peace and detente. The two sides expressed their solidarity with the world's revolutionary and democratic forces which are struggling for social progress and against the misery suffered by mankind.

The PCC and KPOE delegations examined the delicate world situation created by the aggressive policy of imperialism, and highlighted the need to continue efforts to save mankind. The two parties said that imperialist plans against Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba and the actions designed to crush the will of the Salvadoran people are dangerous to world peace. They stated that in the face of the magnitude of the dangers and the universality of the problem, greater solidarity is imperative among the workers of countries with different levels of development for firm, determined and concerted action.

The PCC and KPOE expressed their readiness to act in behalf of the development and further strengthening of political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

CSO: 3010/1398

FARAH MEETS WITH CONGO PRESIDENT, OFF TO ANGOLA

FL171417 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] In a special audience, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the People's Republic of the Congo, has received Levi Farah, minister of the Cuban Government for construction work abroad, who heads a numerous delegation of his agency.

Farah conveyed to the Congolese leader greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro. For his party, Nguesso expressed interest in having Cuba cooperate with his country in the construction of important economic projects of the 1982-1986 5-year plan.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed extensively Cuban-Congolese cooperation in various spheres.

At the conclusion of its stay in the People's Republic of the Congo, Levi Farah and the delegation accompanying him departed for Luanda, where they began talks with Angolan construction minister Manual Mangureira. The Cuban delegation will meet with other leaders of that fraternal country and will visit the Province of Benguela.

CSO: 3010/1399

BRIEFS

RODRIGUEZ RECEIVES GHANA DELEGATION--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received the Ghanaian delegation led by Christ Bukari Atim, member of the Provisional National Defense Council and head of the Provisional Coordinating Committee, and formed by (Ansak Asamoah), an adviser. During the talks, the two sides discussed aspects of the relations between the two countries and their future development. [Text] [FL151915 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 82]

KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the politburo and vice president of the Council of State has received (Lon Bisalo), who presented credentials accrediting him as ambassador of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. [FL152358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 15 Apr 82 FL]

ALMEIDA VISITS GRANMA PROVINCE--Politburo member Juan Almeida Bosque has paid a visit to Granma Province where he toured several social-oriented projects. He inspected the modern 200-room hotel which is being built in Bayamo and the work which is being carried out to improve living conditions in a place called La Malaria, where sewages, drainage, power supply and other facilities are being improved. [FL152358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 15 Apr 82 FL]

CASTRO CONGRATULATED BY KAMPUCHEAN--The secretary general of Kampuchea's Revolutionary People's Party, Heng Samrin, today congratulated Commander in Chief Fidel Castro on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the victory at Giron Beach. We are convinced that the same spirit continues to motivate the fraternal Cuban people in their revolutionary work aimed at gaining greater successes and rejecting all the maneuvers Washington and the international reactionary forces are carrying out, Samrin stresses in his message. The message addressed to the first secretary of our party asserts that Cuba's example constitutes a firm bastion for all countries struggling to consolidate independence, peace, freedom and democracy. [Text] [FL171349 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 82]

GHANA DELEGATION--Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night received a delegation of Ghana's Provisional National Defense Council which is visiting our country. The meeting with the delegation, headed by Christ Bukari Atim, member of the council and president of Ghana's provisional coordinating committee, developed in a friendly atmosphere and, during it, the participants exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and aspects of international policy. [Text] [FL171907 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 82]

PENALVER SPEECH TO CZECHS--Rene Penalver, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, today denounced the U.S. policy of force in Latin America and the Caribbean. The also member of the secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, who heads our country's delegation to the 10th congress of the Czechoslovak trade unions, made a speech at a ceremony of solidarity with Cuba held at the Skoda industrial complex, located some 60 kms from Prague. Referring to new threats against Cuba, Penalver stated that if they dare to attack us, we are ready to give them the same lesson they received at Giron. The Cuban leader noted that in the face of the imperialist arrogance, we have agreed to make production and defense priority tasks. He added that Cuba will never forget that with Czechoslovak and Soviet arms, our workers defeated the imperialist forces in April 1961. [Text] [FL171440 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Apr 82]

MONTANE MEETING WITH INDIA--Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and member of the secretariat, has met with India's Communist Party General Secretary E.M. Sankaran Namboodiripad, who was accompanied by other members of that party's politburo. During the official talks, which were held in a fraternal atmosphere, the two sides examined matters of party interest. They also evaluated the international situation, especially in Central America and the Caribbean and the dangers which loom ahead for world peace as a result of yankee imperialism's aggressive policies. [Text] [FL171311 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Apr 82]

DELEGATION TO GDR NAMED--Rosario Fernandez, member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] executive secretariat and of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, is heading the CTC delegation to the 10th congress of the Free German Trade Unions League which opens tomorrow, 21 April, in Berlin. The delegation also includes Jose Perez Rosquete, head of the socialist countries section in the CTC's international relations department. [Text] [FL201415 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1301 GMT 20 Apr 82]

ISO: 3010/1398

POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION ENDS IN VIOLENCE

FL191720 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] As part of its electoral campaign, the Reformist Party [PR] yesterday staged what its leaders have termed an extraordinarily successful demonstration in which thousands of persons riding all kinds of vehicles left the headquarters of the PR, went through the neighborhoods of (Cristo Rey), Espaillat, Luperon, and (Alopina), crossed the bridge over the Ozama River and proceeded along Avenida de Las Americas to the residence of Joaquin Balaguer.

When the marchers were going through (Alopina) it started to rain heavily but the march continued with undaunted enthusiasm. (Washington Anibal Chopen) who was accompanying (Juan Jimenez Montas), candidate for mayor, said that neither the rain nor the provocations of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] would stop the PR march.

When the demonstrators were crossing the Duarte Bridge, a battle broke out between them and PRD supporters who began stoning the demonstrators from apartments along the streets.

The marchers reacted by throwing stones back and discharging firearms. The clash delayed the march for nearly 1/2 hour and police had to intervene to stop the fight.

The police arrived at the battlefield and without bothering to find out what was happening, jumped off their vehicles firing pistols, rifles and sub-machineguns while other policemen were hurling teargas bombs into the buildings without taking into account that inside them were children and people who had nothing to do with the clash.

Thanks to the prompt and firm intervention of a group of journalists (Doming Mendez Vargas) was not beaten up by the police. (Mendez Vargas), naked from waist up and holding a child in his arms, was resisting arrest by officers who were unwilling to listen to reason.

The residents of buildings located near Duarte Bridge had to leave their homes taking their children with them in order to escape from the teargas bombs. A private vehicle bearing license plate No 04-8373 had its hind windshield blown out by a teargas bomb fired by a police officer.

Another serious incident took place at the corner of (27 De Febrero) Avenue and [name indistinct] Street. There, just a few feet from the general police headquarters, members of the PRD fired their guns from a moving vehicle and wounded four peasants.

CSD: 3010/1400

FOREIGN MINISTER SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PA182126 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2037 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--Manuel E Tavarez, foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, tendered his resignation; however, President Jose Antonio Guzman has still not decided whether he will accept it, an official spokesman announced today.

Tavarez tendered his resignation to the chief of state on Friday giving as a reason "his personal situation with regard to the ministry," Alejandro Vicini, Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated.

The outgoing foreign minister was quite displeased after Monday, 5 April, when the legal office of the presidency released a decree announcing his replacement as he was greeting his Venezuelan counterpart, Jose Alberto Zambrano, at the airport.

Tavarez became foreign minister in February 1981 after having been minister of industry and commerce.

CSO: 3010/1400

PRD DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN ARMS CONTRABAND

PA171949 Paris AFP in Spanish 1955 GMT 13 Apr 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, 13 Apr (AFP)--The Dominican army denied today that it has discovered or is investigating arms smuggling in the country. According to high-ranking officials of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), they have been accused of involvement in arms smuggling.

The report on the supposed contraband was issued 4 days ago by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, PRD secretary general. He added that "some sectors" want to implicate him in the arms traffic, together with Salvador Jorge Blanco, PRD presidential candidate.

The PRD will participate in the 16 May 1982 elections with the reformist right and the left.

Pena Gomez asked the military commands to question him so that he can vindicate himself.

However, Gen Manuel Antonio Lachapelle Suero, chief of the army general staff, denied that he had any information on arms contraband and that, consequently, no one is being investigated.

Recently, U.S. newspaper circles published rumors of a coup in the Dominican Republic should Jorge Blanco win the elections, but the armed forces vehemently denied the charge, as did President Antonio Guzman.

CSO: 3010/1400

BALAGUER CRITICIZES PRD, PRAISES GUZMAN

PA090343 Paris AFP in Spanish 1525 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Article by Francisco Comrazamy]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 7 Apr (AFP)--Former President Joaquin Balaguer launched an attack tonight on the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), saying that it is incapable of ruling the country and that its government "has not been able to construct one single important public project."

In a dramatic television and radio appearance the reformist party's presidential candidate said that most of the PRD's membership "consist of unprepared people who have not the slightest administrative experience."

He said that the government consequently has been forced by the PRD members "to use public funds and to sell gold to pay salaries and wages, and to fund meaningless jobs and useless projects."

Balaguer affirmed that the Central Bank of the republic has been converted into a "questionable" institution, with thousands and thousands of past due letters of credit, with a mountain of loans obtained from foreign banks--the enormous debt of which is shaking not only the foundations of the Central Bank, but the foundations of the country as well."

Balaguer showed the television viewers a 100-peso note and said: "If the PRD presidential candidate wants to know what this banknote is worth, let him take it to a supermarket or to a currency exchange house," adding that "in any of these places he will be told that this banknote is worth 50 percent of its face value."

"Look at it, spanking new, clean, a faithful exponent of the printing of paper money not authorized by the Central Bank's organic structure," Balaguer shouted.

Nevertheless Balaguer added: "However, this patient, whose recovery requires not an injection of penicillin but an injection of confidence, is still breathing and can still get around, if only in a wheelchair." He then asked himself: "But what will his condition be tomorrow?"

The reformist presidential candidate continued: "If he breathes today, if he still gets around, it is because Antonio Guzman is sitting in the presidential chair. He is a PRD man with good and bad ideas, but with determined ideas and with a conservative mentality."

Balaguer said that "President Guzman will, in many respects, pass into history as an exemplary ruler."

"There is no doubt that Guzman has handled the political portion of his administration astutely, that he has given the military hierarchy plenty of fringe benefits and that through this he has managed to strengthen public order and has infused his government with all desired stability," he said.

He concluded by saying that President Guzman has opposed, in his domestic policy, the attempt of the PRD leadership to undermine his prerogatives as head of state and to "whimsically and inconceivably diminish some of his institutional jurisdictions with its repugnant defeatism, which is repulsive in many cases to our nationalistic feelings. These feelings generally correspond to the policy followed by all of the country's governments from 1844 to date in the field of international relations."

CSO: 3010/1400

COUNTRY SECTION

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

ACTING SECRETARIES OF STATE--President Antonio Guzman yesterday appointed Emilio Ludovino Fernandez as acting secretary of state for interior and police in the absence of Rosa Julia de La Cruz de Ortiz who has requested a leave. President Guzman also appointed (Jose Castillo Caminero) as acting secretary of industry and commerce in the absence of Emilio Ludovino Fernandez. [FL201550 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Apr 82 FL]

CSO: 3010/1400

PAID AD PROTESTS ALLEGED U.S. INTERFERENCE

PA222204 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Apr 82 p 20

[Paid advertisement by the Crusade for Peace and Work]

[Text] Salvadoran people alert!

We protest high treason against the country.

The time has come to publicly unmask all the foreign delegations arriving at our country whose purpose is to hypocritically impose a government which in no way expresses the will of the majority of the Salvadoran people. These delegations are being apparently encouraged by local traitors.

Mr Hinton: We could understand that for 2 long years you might have been mistakenly supporting a corrupt, incapable and treacherous party such as the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. However, we will never accept your insistence on imposing on us rulers defeated in free elections in which the U.S. gave its word of honor to respect the sovereign will of the Salvadoran people.

Mr Hinton, the time has come to remind you and your government that El Salvador is a free, sovereign and independent country and not a U.S. colony where you can impose your will at whim. The freedom of over 5 million Salvadorans is worth more than the glitter of a diplomatic career filled with intrigue and betrayal of our country. It would be better if the Salvadorans remember you with respect for having finally been able to rectify your errors and not with the highest contempt and outrage with which one remembers traitors.

We Salvadorans will never allow ourselves to be turned over to the communists as Vietnam, Cuba, Iran, Nicaragua and others were.

People of Salvador, the time has come to defend our country and it will not be the traitors who will remain behind to pick up the pieces of a martyred nation. We are an upstanding and courageous people and will give our lives for freedom.

We shall fight to death before bowing to any foreign intervention.

CSO: 3010/1417

BISHOP CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

PA221405 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Apr 82 pp 1A, 8A

[Article by Roberto Rodriguez]

[Excerpt] Salvadoran Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas yesterday told MATUTINO that after the elections held in that Central American country, he has suggested the advantage of forming a government of national unity with participation by all the political forces that took part in the elections.

"Otherwise," the apostolic administrator of San Salvador added, "it could be presumed that a strictly rightist government, which would drift away from promoting social reforms, would contribute to even greater polarization of the situation rather than to improving it."

Monsignor Rivera y Damas, who is in Panama participating in the fourth Bolivarian Eucharistic Congress, said the elections are a step toward the pacification of the Salvadoran people and reiterated his conviction "that pacification is a task for all."

"These elections are an indication of the need for peace, and we are optimistic, despite the dark clouds often seen."

The Salvadoran bishop revealed here that on more than one occasion the guerrillas have sent representatives to him, asking for help in search of a dialogue. However, he did not explain the positions of the leftist guerrillas or the results of these mediating efforts.

Rivera y Damas emphasized that as pastor of the church, he is determined to find rational means rather than military solutions and noted that dialogue is the means the church favors.

Asked about the Catholic Church's position in the present situation, Monsignor Rivera y Damas said "it maintains a critical distance concerning the government, other institutions and the leftist groups. This does not mean we have forgotten the people," he explained, noting that the church is concerned with humanizing the conflict and alleviating the needs that provoke it.

Further, he said, it is imperative to find a solution, because if the war continues, the threats of intervention and the supply of arms to the guerrillas will continue.

"By obviating intervention, we would speed up the way toward pacification through a political solution," he commented.

Rivera y Damas was emphatic in pointing out that the situation of human rights in general "is precarious," that there is no respect due to the polarization of the problem.

CSO: 3010/1417

NEWSMAN PROVIDES OVERVIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION

PA221330 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1825 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte, leader of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] of El Salvador, said a short time ago: I will remain in the country despite the risks implied.

I do not plan to hold on to my present position, Duarte added. He said: I did not come here in 1980 because I wished to do so, but because my party summoned me to save my country and if the PDC is to decide my destiny, I will accede to its wishes, Duarte said in his last news conference.

Duarte also confirmed that the full government junta will be present at the inauguration of the Constituent Assembly and its board of directors on Monday morning. This is a definite indication that Jose Napoleon Duarte will be removed from power by decision of the Constituent Assembly.

We asked about his possible dismissal from the government and about the posts that the opposition has offered to the PDC. Duarte said: It is one thing for us to feel a need to participate in the government for the good of the country, and it is another thing for us to agree to participate in a rightist government. We cannot accept alms or condescension from a government that is opposed to the people's principles. Those were comments made by Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Meanwhile, the military situation in the country is being analyzed by the top ranks of the armed forces, who are holding continuous sessions to analyze and review their actions of the past few months. They are also planning their activities for the days to come, as well as to studying the country's general political, social, economic and military situation in order to decide on what actions to take in the next few days, according to sources close to the armed forces.

To be more specific, today the armed forces published the obituaries of 22 members of the army who were killed in the struggle against subversion in different parts of the country, bringing to 64 the military personnel killed in the course of 1 week, according to the reports and the names of the dead soldiers published in the obituary columns of the local papers.

The Constituent Assembly is continuing its preparations and is drafting a number of documents and decrees that will go into effect immediately after their publication in the official GAZETTE. For the moment, the various assembly committees are discussing only domestic issues. The assembly's installation will take place tomorrow morning, according to the reports obtained from our sources.

In another quarter, the army has begun a counterinsurgency operation in the area of Puerto Parada, some 150 km southeast of San Salvador, specifically on the outskirts of Puerto Parada, Usulután Department where, according to residents and peasants, armed individuals have been disembarking at night in the area around the Puerto Parada Bay. As a result, military units, with air support, began a medium-scale operation yesterday afternoon in an attempt to detect and destroy pockets of subversives in the sector, according to military reports provided to the YSKL news center.

Finally, U.S. newsman John Hoagland was remanded today to the 5th criminal court, where he is being charged with the destruction of a vehicle in December, 1980, in a Honduran province. The vehicle had been rented from the Hertz Servitour Corporation in this capital. The vehicle had been repaired and paid for with insurance. The explanations of the case were given by South African newsman (Ian May), who was killed in an incident in the area of Suchitoto and Aguilaries in January, 1980.

The U.S. newsman was arrested yesterday at El Camino Real Hotel by a group of treasury policemen on orders from the 5th criminal judge. He is expected to be released in the next few hours.

CSO: 3010/1417

BRIEFS

MAJANO VISITS COUNTRY INCOGNITO--Col Adolfo Arnolfo Majano, a former member of the government junta, was in the country on Saturday, it was learned yesterday in Constituent Assembly circles. The sources said that Majano met with some representatives of political parties and with government officials. Further investigation into his presence led to the speculation that his incognito visit could be related to the formation of the new government that the Constituent Assembly will appoint in the next few days. It was also learned that Colonel Majano spoke this week in Mexico with the Spanish parliamentary mission that visited El Salvador last week. [Excerpts]
[PA210444 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 21 Apr 82 p 5]

CSO: 3010/1417

URNG SAYS GOVERNMENT READY TO ATTACK PEASANTS

PA221912 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 82

[Text] In a communique distributed to the international press the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) today revealed an imminent government military offensive against the civilian population of the Huehuetenango Department.

The message points out that the Guatemalan junta preparations are a sign of continuity with the genocidal and destruction of land policy of former President Lucas Garcia.

The organizations that make up the URNG--Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), Poor Peoples Guerrilla Army (EGP), Armed Peoples Revolutionary Organization (ORPA) and the Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT) Directorate--charged that thousands of soldiers, disguised as peasants, are ready to launch an attack on the civilian population and on the EGP guerrilla front, Commander Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

In the communique the URNG calls on the civilian population of the Huehuetenango Department to reveal to the local revolutionary forces all the military personnel disguised as peasants that may show up in the area. In this manner they will increase the self-defense measures of the people.

In conclusion the Guatemalan organization blame the Guatemalan junta and the army for the killings that could occur among the people of Huehuetenango. The URNG also appealed to the patriotic sectors within the armed forces to oppose this criminal action and at the same time exhorted the people of the world to denounce this new repressive maneuver of the government soldiers.

CSO: 3010/1418

BRIEFS

TERRORISTS STAGE ACTIONS--Several terrorist actions were reported today in various parts of the country. In Huehuetenango, rebel groups burned an urban bus after ordering the passengers to get off. A wooden bridge was destroyed at Chiantla in Huehuetenango, paralyzing traffic in the area. In Las Palmas, Retalhuleu, a group of guerrillas attacked a national police outpost, killing a policeman and stealing his gun. In Antigua, unidentified individuals phoned the La Salle school to report the imminent explosion of two bombs, which prompted the evacuation of the students. The call turned out to be a false alarm. In another terrorist action, rebel groups attacked a car dealership at Roosevelt Road and 24th Avenue, setting fire to nine used cars and smashing the windows of six new cars, including two minibuses. The action was carried out by six armed men who attacked the establishment, threatened the personnel and set fire to the automobiles after pouring gasoline over them. Before leaving, the terrorists painted antigovernment slogans on the walls and the letters FT-31, which correspond to the subversive 31 January Front. [Text] [PA230445 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Apr 82]

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRINGS ANNOY PRESS--The military government headed by Gen Efraim Rios Montt has unleashed a campaign against the press by dismissing five chiefs of public relations offices. According to reports, newsman Jesus Alvarado Mendizabal, public relations chief of the Finance Ministry; (Vitelio Castillo), chief of public relations of the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity; Julio Cesar Hernandez, public relations chief of (?Digetepe) [expansion unknown]; (Yus Angelina Jimenez), public relations chief of the Pacific Port Complex; and (Victor Hugo de Leon), public relations chief of the Agricultural Marketing Institute. Newsmen who work in the various media will challenge Rios Montt to identify the corrupt members of the press to which he referred. The journalists are annoyed because they have been called liars and corrupt. Therefore, they want identification of these newsmen. Certain journalists, who are members of the Guatemalan Journalists Association, said that this statement mars their prestige and it is not fair for all of them to be called corrupt and liars. [Text] [PA221845 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 21 Apr 82]

EGP FEBRUARY-APRIL ACTIONS--San Jose--In a communique, the Guatemalan Poor People's Guerrilla Army, EGP, has reported that in the period between 2 February and 6 April, it inflicted 141 casualties on the Guatemalan

Government forces in several clashes. Among other actions, the communique also reports several harassment attacks, 46 sabotage actions to roads, bridges and government buildings and the seizures of municipalities, villages and farms owned by individuals linked to the military regime. [Text] [PA230357 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 82]

NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL--Col Ruben Alvarez Artiga has been sworn in as the country's new comptroller general. He is replacing Jorge Alberto Lopez who had held the important post since July 1978. [PA221606 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 16 Apr 82]

NEW DEPUTY MINISTERS--Luis Humberto Figueroa Munoz, an agronomist, and Mario Antonio Motta Gonzalez, a veterinarian, were sworn in yesterday as new deputy ministers of agriculture and nutrition and of livestock and nutrition, respectively. [PA221606 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Apr 82 p 2]

DEATH SQUAD REEMERGES--Almost 1 month after the coup which ousted former President Lucas Garcia, the fatal death squad went into action again, killing two prisoners and kidnapping two others in Mazatenango. Several policemen who were transferring four prisoners to jail were intercepted and subdued by armed men who shot prisoners (Gregorio Aparicio Sikal) and his brother (Jose Sikal) on the spot. They then kidnapped (Gerardo Sicayo) and (Eusebio Smith). The four prisoners had been charged with killing an entire family 30 km from Mazatenango. [Text] [PA230432 Guatemala City Trecevision in Spanish 0130 GMT 22 Apr 82]

OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES--Guatemala's oil production level is currently set at 6,800 barrels per day. An official source said today that 265,000 barrels of this product are exported every month. Jorge Luis Monzon, secretary of mining and hydrocarbons, also said today that no new oil deposits have been detected during recent weeks. [Text] [PA222016 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0040 GMT 22 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1418

CONGRESS PRESIDENT ANSWERS LIBERAL PARTY CRITICS

PA230353 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Interview with Congress President Efraim Bu Giron by Gustavo Rubi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Question] What can you tell us about the charge by certain Christian Democrats that the National Congress, that is, the liberal deputies, and the president are infatuated with Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the armed forces who was recently promoted to general?

[Answer] I have not heard this opinion by the friends you mention, but if by infatuation they mean recognition of the merits of a military man who has nothing to be ashamed of in his career as citizen and military man, then so be it. We have recognized Col Gustavo Alvarez Martinez' merits as both a professional military man and citizen.

[Question] Does this mean that at present there is great understanding between the Liberal Party, or I should say Dr Suazo Cordova, and the Honduran armed forces?

[Answer] There is no understanding. We can't talk of any great understandings. The armed forces are fulfilling their constitutional duties, as the president is. Perhaps there is a similarity of purposes on behalf of Honduras, which needs the joint effort not only of the civilian and military powers, but of all sectors of Honduran society.

[Question] Do you believe in the civilian power's supremacy over military power?

[Answer] During a tour to a friendly country, I talked to a high-ranking military officer, who told me that he admired Truman because he had enforced civilian power over military power. Now, these words should not be taken to mean that we either oppose or have feelings of enmity toward the armed forces. The armed forces have a major and very important role to play in defense of the national sovereignty and the stability of both peace and public order.

[Question] Does the agreement between the government and the armed forces, which you mentioned, definitely rule out coups?

[Answer] Well, I believe in the Honduran people's civic maturity, in the armed forces' maturity and in the steadiness and intelligence of its leaders. I don't think a coup can be good for Honduras either now or in the future.

CSO: 3010/1420

COHEP URGES GOVERNMENT TO DEFINE ECONOMIC POLICY

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Lardizabal says that businessmen have not received a reply from the president to the proposals and suggestions presented.

Tegucigalpa—The Honduran Private Enterprise Council (COHEP) yesterday complained about the lack of definition in the economic policy of the liberal government installed in office a month ago.

After meeting with President Roberto Suazo Cordova, COHEP president Fernando Lardizabal said that the private sector will remain withdrawn for as long as the government does not announce the rules of the economic game.

As he explained, private investment will tend to decline unless the guidelines of the government, whose attitude a month after being installed in office "resembles the sizing up two boxers engage in before a fight."

Lardizabal assured us that private enterprise could use the funds the "Reagan Plan" proposes to earmark for Honduras, but that to do so there must be full cooperation with the national government.

"We can export huge quantities of conventional products, but this is not the case for the nonconventional ones because we have received no incentive to produce them," the business leader noted, referring to the advantages of free trade announced by the American president.

The president of the businessmen's association said that the private sector is in a position to make use of this aid as long as it is properly channeled.

Lardizabal reported that the COHEP has presented the president with a paper containing several proposals and suggestions as to how to reactivate the national economy, but to date a reply has not been received from the government.

He expressed the opinion that, if there is no cooperation between government and private enterprise, investments will be withdrawn even more and economic disaster will be imminent.

The businessmen are relying on President Suazo Cordova to reveal the economic principles that will govern private investments in the country in the speech he is to make to the nation today.

11,466

CSO: 3010/1308

EMPLOYEES ACCUSE TEXACO OF MANEUVERING TO RAISE PRICES

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Mar 82 p 3

[Article: "According to Labor Leaders, Texaco May Refine Mexican Crude"]

[Text] Saudi Arabian crude with a high concentration of sulphur has been refined on several occasions.

Tegucigalpa—The Texaco Refinery of Honduras is in an optimal position to process Mexican crude oil and the attempt to set up a company like PETRHONSA (Hondural Petroleum, Inc) is no more than a pretext to obtain an increase in energy prices.

This is what labor-union leaders of the refining company had to say, the company which with technical arguments assures us that "Texaco's costs have not risen, as some would have us believe, because far from rising the price of crude oil has remained stable. To this we must add the stagnation of refining operations that exists (since September 1981)."

In the name of his comrades, union secretary general Mario Edgardo Rojas said to LA PRENSA: "How is it possible for a country that has been destroyed economically to make an issue of a company when in the United States the price of energy has not been able to rise for several months?"

We Will Never Accept

Rojas emphatically assured us: "We will never accept the fact that the Texaco Company may ask for a price increase under the pretext of raising our salaries." He made it clear that the transnational company has never passed so much as 1 percent of the increases it has obtained on to the union and that as a result they have to fight for them through collective labor-union contracts.

He admitted that refinery executives had proposed a similar alternative to them, but that it had been rejected "because we are Hondurans."

We Can Refine

The union leader denied the validity of the company's arguments when he underlined the fact that "the Puerto Cortes refinery installations can perfectly

will process Mexican crude, considering that they have on several occasions refined oil with a high sulphur content brought in from Saudi Arabia."

Rojas noted that the government should be ready to consider the refinery union's suggestions because "there are many officials in this government, as well as in the previous one, who listen or will listen only to Texaco's arguments."

"This constitutional regime must respect the international supply agreement signed with Mexico and Venezuela while at the same time seeking other alternatives than increasing the price of energy," Rojas added.

Front Company

Rojas did not hesitate to assure us: "For us the constitution of a company with monopolistic goals like PETRHONSA is not a healthy situation because it should be the government which honestly administers the distribution of energy, not private individuals.

"Those who appear as PETRHONSA executives do not have enough technical expertise to deal with the delicate energy trade," the union leader emphasized.

SITMARSETA union leaders predict "a rise in the price of energy with the creation of PETRHONSA, which adds one more link to the chain of hydrocarbons marketing and which will acquire its own profits apart from those the refinery, the distributors and the gas stations receive."

"President Roberto Suazo Cordova acts surprised by the size of this project which has almost been approved. However, we warned him that, if he gives PETRHONSA 1 percent more of profit, he will destroy the national economy," the union leader concluded.

11,466
CCC: 3010/1308

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN--Lic Juan Jose Bremer today was designated Mexico's ambassador to Sweden, the Foreign Secretariat has announced. From 1972 to 1975, Ambassador Bremer was private secretary of President Lopez Portillo, and from October 1975 to December 1976 he was under secretary of the presidency. Since December 1976 and until January 1982, he held the post of director general of the National Institute of Fine Arts. [FL171329 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 16 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1404

HUMBERTO ORTEGA URGES PEOPLE TO UNITE, DEFEND COUNTRY

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Mar 82 pp 1, 5

[Text] Last night a call to strengthen the Sandinist Defense Committees (CDS) and to deepen their relations with the Sandinist Peoples Militias (MPS) to prepare civil defense was issued by Commander Humberto Ortega, minister of defense and commander in chief of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. He spoke during the ceremony marking International Woman's Day and the adjournment of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of Our America.

Commander Ortega announced that in the days ahead the Sandinist People's Army, by means of the MPS, will provide directions about how to prepare civil defense in view of the possibility of a surprise attack like those the imperialists and the reactionaries are in the habit of carrying out.

He stressed that in issuing the call he did not want to incite panic but rather to face in a responsible manner the "real danger of an attack" in which we should be prepared not only to resist but also to defeat the aggressor.

In his speech last night, Commander Ortega also issued a call for the creation of a Front for Peace which all political and social groups would join to achieve a just solution to the situation in Central America.

Before Commander Ortega's talk, Father Ernesto Cardenal, minister of culture, spoke. He read the final resolution of the First Meeting of the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of Our America, which calls upon North American intellectuals to contribute to prevention in Central America of repetition of a suicidal military adventure like that in Vietnam.

Glenda Monterrey, secretary general of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women also spoke. Her subject was International Woman's Day, celebrated yesterday, and women's participation in the revolutionary process.

We'll not only be able to resist; we'll be able to defeat our enemies, Commander Humberto Ortega warned last night when calling upon all the people to heed the directions to be announced shortly for the populace's defense in the event of a surprise attack, through organization of civil defense.

"We don't want to alarm people," the minister of defense said, noting, "Frankly, this is a dangerous month," for the imperialists want to conceal the crisis characterizing their faulty policy in El Salvador.

As we approach the so-called election in El Salvador--Ortega remarked--instead of listening to the just, logical proposals made by our people and leaders, they continue the attacks, the terrorist assaults and other actions intended to create a difficult situation for Nicaragua in the international sphere.

The Sandinist leader emphasized the fact that in the face of the untenable position of the Christian Democrat military junta, Reagan administration officials insist that the Salvadoran people's struggle for liberation is the fault of Nicaragua and Cuba and of the transporting of weapons.

He stated that a people can have many weapons, but if it has no just cause it will not take them up, and that in El Salvador the roots of the struggle lie in the economic and political situation that country has endured for decades.

Ortega reviewed the activities carried out by the enemies of the Sandinist People's Revolution since October, when they increased significantly.

He spoke of the military, political and economic campaigns and stratagems promoted by the Reagan administration and South America's most reactionary governments to deprive us of the support of responsible, rational governments as well as to mislead the world's peoples when they, the imperialists, intervene in the region.

Among those stratagems and campaigns Ortega cited manipulation of the international and local press; campaigns of misinformation that rely on the noble, generous sentiments of our religious people; material support of the Somozist bands that escaped the people's justice; the contacts among the most reactionary military men in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador and the counterrevolutionary leaders; the Yankee military advice given to the region's reactionary armies; the creation of the so-called Central American Democratic Community; and the conducting of spy flights over Nicaraguan territory.

The minister of defense also cited, among the deceptive actions designed to confuse the public, the statements by a Venezuelan politician published in LA PRENSA, S. A., in which an attempt is made to place conditions on the aid provided by elements in that country for the struggle against Somoza.

Ortega noted that it is the people, who offered the blood of 50,000 of their best children, who deserve the primary credit for the liberty we won on 19 July.

The minister of defense insisted, however, that Nicaragua will continue to make efforts to find just, nonviolent, solutions to the situation troubling Central America.

While calling for the creation of a Front for Peace to prevent an attack against the country, he said that we should be prepared in case the efforts to achieve a just, reasonable solution fail in the face of the irrational attitude of the United States and some governments in Central America and the Southern Cone of this continent.

There is no desire to spill blood, Commander Ortega stated, but if it must be done, we are going to spill it to win.

If intervention occurs, this war will involve not only Nicaragua but Central America, not only the revolutionary will of the Nicaraguans but also the will to win or die of the people of Central America and Latin America, Ortega emphasized to indicate that Nicaragua is not alone in this struggle.

9085

CSO: 3010/1306

CARRION'S LETTER TO SECURITY CORPS REBUKES PASTORA

PA192227 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Commander of the revolution Luis Carrion, deputy interior minister, has addressed a letter to the officers and combatants of the State Security Corps to refute the slanderous statements Eden Pastora has made against this revolutionary government body.

Carrion stressed the commendable work that the state security is doing in defense of the revolution and the quiet, unpretentious work which the combatants perform without any propaganda aims or personal ambition. He adds that perhaps the only truth in Pastora's long and tiresome counterrevolutionary speech is that, indeed, our State Security Corps is already feared and loathed by those who hate the Nicaraguan people and dream of reversing their wonderful revolutionary gains.

The barefaced or covert counterrevolutionaries will never be able to understand that the strength of the State Security Corps and our armed forces depends on the strength of the people themselves. We constitute the people's security and the security of the people's state, says the deputy interior minister's letter.

The letter says that 16 state security fighters have fallen during the unrelenting battle against those who want to make us return to the past. The fear of our enemies is comparable only to the fondness and support of our brave people. Because of this and our unwavering morale we can tell our enemies that they shall not pass--neither with tanks nor traitors.

CSO: 3010/1423

REBELS REPORT FDN ATTACKS ON TWO MILITARY POSTS

PA222217 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish to Nicaragua 0230 GMT
22 Apr 82

[Text] Attention, Nicaraguan brothers: We have last-minute news. Guerrilla commandos of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] have attacked two of the dictatorship's military posts in northern Nicaragua.

The FDN operations command has sent us a brief war report indicating that anticommunist guerrilla commandos of the FDN staged a new military operation against two military posts of the mangy dogs' regime. According to the report, our liberation forces acted this time in the mountains of Jalapa.

Freedom commandos of the FDN staged surprise attacks on the mangy dogs' posts in (La Milla) farm and (Rio Arriba) in the mountains of Jalapa. The attacks on both posts of the communist dictatorship began at 0600 today, 21 April. The two posts of the mangy dogs were shelled with 81-mm mortars for 10 to 15 minutes.

The FDN operations command war report added that the four sentries of the (Rio Arriba) post fled in disorder, abandoning their positions and military equipment minutes after we began our artillery barrage. Nicaraguan brothers, this action shows the disastrous fighting morale of the Marxist-Leninist dictatorship's troops. They desperately flee in the face of the action of our freedom commandos.

We can also report to our people that the mangy-dog henchmen practically did not answer our fire; therefore, it can be deduced that the communist enemies were completely eliminated. Our fighters suffered no casualties. An adequate report on the damage and the casualties inflicted on the dictatorship's troops has not been drafted yet but information in this regard will soon be obtained and reported to you in future transmissions.

CSO: 3010/1423

'RADIO 15 SEPTEMBER' WARNS ABOUT SANDINIST PLANS

PA190420 (Clandestine) Radio 15 September in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Generous and fighting people of Nicaragua: Radio 15 September, official voice of the Nicaraguan democratic force, hereby alerts all our Nicaraguan brothers because we are all facing great difficulties. The dictatorial Marxist-Leninist regime is creating a seriously dangerous situation.

Nicaraguans, brothers in the struggle, this uncertainty that all of us are facing now should not intimidate us because the Marxist-Leninist regime is crumbling. There is no doubt that it will fall. Therefore, Radio 15 September has the duty to inform and alert our Nicaraguan people about the atrocities and genocidal actions, about the criminal plans that the FSLN Directorate will implement in the next few days.

Radio 15 September, the voice of a people determined to be free, hereby alerts all Nicaraguans about the macabre and terrorist plans that the Marxists have already prepared and that they will soon carry out. There will be criminal actions against defenseless citizens.

By means of contacts and liaison elements, our intelligence system has learned about and confirmed the crimes that have already been approved by the genocidal FSLN regime. Here is the information. Your attention, Nicaraguans:

Our intelligence system informs the people of the plans that the dictatorial regime of the FSLN will be carrying out very soon. Attention. We alert our Nicaraguan brothers who daily struggle from their civic and patriotic trenches, all the leaders of democratic political parties and labor unions who are integrated into, and strengthened by, the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board and independent labor federations:

In view of the patriotic break that took place a few months ago for the well-being of the nation and to remain unsubdued by the shameful and anti-democratic orders of the dictatorial regime of the armed political party in power, the frontists, the top leadership of the dictatorship, have planned, first, to kidnap all the political leaders of the democratic parties that don't agree with trappings, with the criminal silence, with

the tortures and abuses and with the genocide that the absurd and deadly regime of the dying FSLN is carrying out in the country.

Nicaraguan people, Tomas Borge Martinez has accepted this macabre plan to kidnap all the leaders of the political parties. They will be taken to security houses under deadly Lenin Cerna to be executed.

This gruesome and criminal plan was coldly presented a few days ago by deadly Lenin Cerna, chief of the fearsome state security. Orders have already been given not to allow any political or labor leader who bravely speaks out against communism and the dictatorial Marxist-Leninist regime to leave the country.

Tomas Borge Martinez has accepted the criminal plan proposed by assassin Lenin Cerna. The free travel of political and labor leaders has been prevented by not allowing them to go abroad.

Attention, Nicaraguans: The Marxist-Leninists had plans to place powerful and criminal explosives in any of the planes to be used by the political leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board, but our contacts and liaison in place have reported that the regime has decided to kidnap and murder the men who dissent and break with crime and terror, with genocide and atrocities.

Nicaraguans, the criminal FSLN leadership has ordered the suspension of flights abroad by our political and labor leaders because it is crumbling at every level: political, economic, social, military, religious. They see with hatred that the only flotation device that the FSLN leadership still has is moving out of their grasp. They are lonely drowning in international politics.

There has already been a general answer at the continental and world level. The answer has been rejection for the regime of terror that the nine dictators of the armed political party in power have created.

Nicaraguan brothers, brothers: This is a moment to struggle. This is the moment for the struggle. Let's struggle together in alliance with our democratic parties made up of brave and determined Nicaraguans who now fearlessly face the red monster which is drowning in blood and contradictions.

Crime is crumbling, genocide is crumbling, the communist dictatorship is falling apart, but crime is more evident now and so is repression, and the criminal plans against those who have asked for a peaceful, civic, patriotic and nationalistic way out.

The Marxists are clumsily realizing that they are alone, that they have no control and are defeated. They kneel before a people determined to be free.

Nicaraguans, you must remain alert to our reports and to the struggle. Radio 15 September will keep you informed about circumstances and events. We will give you advance information about the criminal actions that the FSLN will carry out against the Nicaraguan people.

CSO: 3010/1423

GOVERNMENT TO GRANT AID TO MISKITO SETTLEMENT

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Mar 82 pp 1, 15

[Text] A plan to be implemented promptly entailing an expenditure of 65 million cordobas for the new Tasba-Pri Miskito settlements, and another plan extending from 1983 to 1990 and costing 365 million cordobas, were announced last night by the secretary of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction on radio and television.

The far-reaching revolutionary program will be directed by the minister of planning, Henry Ruiz; and it demolishes the defamation and smears hurled by those within and outside the country who have tried to sling mud at the great revolutionary effort to protect the Miskito population.

The communique reporting all the actions the revolution has performed, is now performing and will perform in the future to benefit our Miskito brothers on the Atlantic Coast states the following:

The secretary general of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction informs the people of Nicaragua of the efforts that the revolutionary government has been making in the process of resettling the Miskito people living on the banks of the Coco River.

The "Tasba-Pri" complete development program is primarily intended to resettle about 10,500 people at four principal sites: Columbus, Sumubila, Sahsa and Wasminoma. Thus far, a total of 8,965 people have been settled there, within an area of some 76,028 manzanas. It lies in Zelaya Norte, between the Kukalaya River and Tamarind Channel, near the Rosita-Puerto Cabezas highway.

In the mobilization and moving of the population, over 600,000 cordobas was spent on air transport alone, and over 2.5 million cordobas was spent on such foodstuffs as beans, milk, meat, sugar, and so forth.

The Government of National Reconstruction is aware of the difficult situation Nicaraguans of Miskito origin have endured because of the exploitation to which

they were subject through centuries of domination. On 19 July 1979, when hope for a better future arose in our Miskito brothers, terror, rape and murder carried out by the bands of Somozist former National Guard troops operating from Honduran territory threatened to kill that hope.

The resettlement project is therefore intended to save that population from Somozist terror and to bring it the benefit of our revolutionary process' achievements. Now that we have the results of a study of financing needed for expenditures for operations during the period 1982-1990, Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front and minister of planning for the revolutionary government, has been placed in charge of the "Tasba-Pri" complete development program.

The plan proposed and approved for 1982 involves an expenditure of over 65 million cordobas, of which 58.6 million cordobas will be spent on the construction of over 1,777 housing units, 4 schools and 4 health centers; and 6.3 million cordobas is for the immediate launching of a productive enterprise. It should be noted that the first 300 prefabricated houses, which will accomodate the same number of families, are now ready for immediate shipment. Also, the hospital at Rosita will be expanded to a 50-bed capacity.

On Monday, 8 March, the first school in Wasminoma is opening with 700 students. There are plans to have 3,854 students in the four settlements, from preschool through elementary level, and 74 teachers. Over 50 physicians have gone to provide care for the settlements, which has raised the rate of visits to one per day per resident in a population that historically had received no medical care.

We must stress the dedication and spirit of sacrifice shown by physicians, teachers, government officials, members of our armed forces and militia members assigned to support the project. Particularly deserving of our recognition is the enthusiastic, selfless work done by the members of Sandinist Youth and the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

In response to the proposal by the Sandinist Workers Federation that a talkathon be staged as a benefit for our Miskito brothers, we must report that the talkathon was cancelled because the revolutionary government, as administrator of the nation's resources, has already approved in principle the "Tasba-Pri" complete development program. Between 1982 and 1990, this program will involve a total expenditure of 365,708,500 cordobas, a part of which we have reported on today. During the next 10 days, we are sending 1,000 pairs of shoes for men, women, and children as well as an equal number of trousers, shirts, dresses and underwear, along with 2,190 pairs of rubber boots, kitchenware and tools. In this way, inhabitants of the Pacific region of Nicaragua, the central and southern regions of Zelaya Department, and the country's center are contributing, through the revolutionary government, to the solution to the problem of our Miskito brothers, expressing their solidarity.

Finally, we want to say that with this generous, responsible effort we are refuting the defamatory statements by enemies of our revolution who have sought to portray the Miskitos as persecuted, murdered and wronged by the Sandinist People's Revolution. We are thus disproving the slanderous claims of those who, within and outside the country, have tried to manipulate this situation to hinder the advance and consolidation of our revolution.

The testimony offered by religious leaders, priests, Latin American political leaders, and North American congressmen, who are among those who have visited the settlements and spoken to their residents, bears witness to the effort made by the revolution while particularly respecting the religious practices and beliefs and the customs of our Miskito brothers who lived on the Nicaraguan banks of the Coco River.

9085

CSO: 3010/1306

HONDURAS OFFICERS, CIA ALLEGEDLY AID SOMOZISTS

PA162150 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] The Honduran Council for Peace and Friendship with Nicaragua has accused the CIA of helping the counterrevolutionary groups. The council has also charged that ranking officers of the Honduran armed forces cooperate with these groups in their actions against Nicaragua.

The Honduran Council for Peace and Friendship with Nicaragua charged in Tegucigalpa that the counterrevolutionary groups based in Honduras receive food and military aid through the Agency for International Development (AID) and the U.S. religious group [words indistinct].

Two officials of the UN High Commission for Refugees (ACNUR) in Honduras were also mentioned as CIA collaborators.

The Agencia Independiente de Prensa (AIP) reported that the so-called help for Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras is actually channeled to Somozist camps, presently under the direction of former National Guard officers with Argentine and U.S. advisers.

AIP also states that Col Danilo Ferrara, commander of Choluteca's 11th battalion and Colonels Victorio Sanchez and Rene Sagastume of the 6th battalion help the counterrevolutionaries in various ways.

It finally says that CIA RC-15 planes, assigned to spy over Nicaragua and El Salvador, arrive at the Honduran airport of Toncontin every 2 days to deliver the material collected and to refuel.

CSO: 3010/1423

PATRIOTIC FRONT STATES SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTION

PA190256 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Communique by the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, signed by the front's Press Secretary Cesar Delgadillo; issued in Managua on 17 April--read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the antipatriotic and counterrevolutionary statement made by Eden Pastora, the parties that make up the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, a democratic, pluralist, and anti-imperialist alliance, address the Nicaraguan people and the world to state:

1. We reaffirm that we recognize the FSLN as the leading force and vanguard of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process.
2. We reaffirm our total support, to the end, to the Sandinist people's revolution.
3. We know that this process has three phases: a. The struggle against the Somozist dictatorship; b. structural transformations for the national reconstruction of the country; c. the formation of the new society.
4. It is normal in all processes that persons, and even organizations, fall behind during phases of the revolutionary struggle; not everybody can be in agreement with the transformations that are urgently necessary for our people.
5. Eden Pastora Gomez did struggle against the Somozist dictatorship but failed in the following phase of our process.
6. Our people, who are disposed to sacrifice and to struggle without surrendering, must firmly and calmly analyze the attitude of those who are not fully identified with the supreme strategic objectives of the Sandinist people's revolution, and therefore have weaknesses and personalistic positions that lead to the betrayal of the people's ideals.
7. We once again reiterate that although we want peace, we will struggle to the end to defend the fatherland and the revolution.

Unity for the fatherland and the revolution.

CSO: 3010/1423

MIDINRA EXPLAINS GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO COFFEE GROWERS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Mar 82 p 10

[Text] "We're interested in having the growers assume their responsibility, and thus we've taken all the necessary steps along with our companeros at the FED [Special Development Fund] and the CORFIN [Nicaraguan Finance Corporation]. With the firm support of representatives of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], we set up an expeditious mechanism so that they can obtain financing to work the coffee farms immediately."

Those are the words of Eduardo Holmann, director of Region 4 for the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform (MIDINRA), commenting on the lack of interest of some Carazo Department coffee growers, who have not gone to the finance system to legalize their requests for credit. In extreme cases, they have abandoned the farms.

Holmann said that at a meeting held on 3 March growers were given an explanation of the mechanisms the Junta of Government had authorized to expedite disbursements for work to be done in the third year of the program to restore the coffee plantations.

These measures, he noted, provide that branch banks can approve credits for this purpose of up to 32,961.75 cordobas per manzana for farms turned over to their owners by CONARCA [National Committee for the Renewal of Coffee Plantations]. Of this sum, 25,554 cordobas per manzana will be paid to CONARCA for work performed on the farms during the first two years, before they were handed over in December 1981; and 7,407 cordobas per manzana will be paid to the grower by means of the signing of a simple contract for work to be done during the third year.

Second, 90 days will be allowed for submission of the documentation needed for formal authorization of the credits.

Third, they will be given 10 days, starting 3 March, in which to appear at the financing bank to submit their request. The funds will be given them immediately so that the work planned will not be delayed.

The grower will only be asked for the deed to the property and the CONARCA confirmation of it. Moreover, there are plans to examine each case individually to see the special problems brought forth, with the idea that nothing may hinder the disbursement of the funds enabling the growers to go to work.

Eduardo Holmann, regional MIDINRA director, also said that since early February they have been reviewing the situation of the coffee farms on the plantations that were turned over to their owners and were restored in 1980.

Holmann indicated that the MIDINRA learned about the situation from a report furnished by Henry Matus, director general of CONARCA, which disclosed that the plantations were in disastrous condition.

They realized, Holmann stated, that they had not taken care of them. As a result, they were overgrown with weeds. Moreover, they had not dusted to combat disease, which endangered the farms.

At the same time, the coffee growers had not gone to the National Financial System to request formal authorization of their credits.

The MIDINRA official said that on 12 February growers were invited to a meeting, where they were told of the concern about their attitude. They were also told that besides providing an opportunity for airing of the problems causing them to neglect their coffee farms, the meeting was intended to remind them that the purpose of the restoration was not to eliminate disease, as many believed, but rather to work the farms with more modern methods.

It was made clear at the meeting that the use of modern methods on the coffee farms means that the grower must work with suitable technology to achieve the results sought. Also, the government, through CONARCA, had invested a large sum of money, and it could not be thrown away.

The coffee growers were also told that in the region there is a social problem--unemployment--and weeding of the farms is an immediate source of jobs.

9085

CSO: 3010/1306

JUNTA'S SERGIO RAMIREZ SPEAKS AT INTELLECTUALS' MEETING

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Mar 82 pp 1, 11

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government Junta, urged last night that the Standing Committee of Intellectuals for Sovereignty for the Peoples of Our America address itself to intellectuals in the United States right now, before it is too late for them to reject any sort of intervention or interference by that country in Central America or the Caribbean.

The urgent call was voiced by Dr Ramirez Mercado at the opening last night of the committee's First Meeting, "in view of the growing imperialist aggression against Nicaragua and other peoples of America and the Caribbean who are fighting for liberation or defending their revolutions."

It May Be Too Late

Dr Ramirez Mercado, who listed the various forms of aggression of which our country is a victim, stated that the meeting planned by the committee for September of this year with North American intellectuals to make them aware of the policy being carried out by the Reagan administration in Central America and the Caribbean "may be too late."

The two speakers agreed that contact between Latin American and North American intellectuals as soon as possible may be one of the last resorts for avoiding a war between weak peoples and the imperialists.

Dr Ramirez said also that in the face of the growing aggression by the imperialists and in view of the imminent danger of a sudden escalation of that aggression, the Nicaraguan revolution has responded with maturity and calm; and he listed the five points of the proposal made by the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] at the third meeting of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America (COPPPAL), held in this capital last month.

We Are Not Going To Retreat

We are a determined people, he said; we are not going to retreat before any threat, but we have given signs--and we are going to continue giving them--of wanting and seeking a comprehensive understanding that promotes peace in the region and that brings stability and security to our country.

Among recent signs of aggression on the part of the Reagan administration he cited the expenditure of \$19 million to finance economic, political, and military destabilization action against Nicaragua; the supporting of the bands of Somozist former National Guard personnel admitted recently by Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs; the creation of the so-called Central American Democratic Community; the establishment of North American military bases at Amapala and San Andres, located on our continental shelf; and the presence of North American ships in the Gulf of Fonseca.

The People of the United States and Vietnam

After recalling that it was in fact the North American people who halted the adventure in Vietnam with their great protests, Dr Ramirez Mercado said he was sure that "that people is not indifferent to justice, does not easily forget its past, and will serve as a wall to stop intervention in Latin America."

In his speech, Dr Ramirez Mercado agreed with remarks made by Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart concerning the existence of two types of North Americans.

Two Kinds of North Americans

Ramirez Mercado said that the phrase in the FSLN hymn, "We fight against the Yankee enemy of humanity," will not be removed as Mrs Kirkpatrick has asked, for it refers to the North Americans who have intervened in our country, those who impoverished our homeland, the filibusters, those who have plundered our mines and those who supported the bloody Somoza dictatorship until the last moment.

For his part, Hart, who quoted Marti frequently about North America, stated that the Cuban martyr had distinguished between the North Americans who are Lincoln's heirs, "who love and create," and the North Americans who, like the adventurer Cutting, who sought to annex a part of Mexico to the United States, "hate and destroy."

It Would Change History

The member of the Government Junta said, "Attacks against any people in the Caribbean or Central America, intervention in El Salvador or Nicaragua, would change the history of Latin America."

He also recalled that the president of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, had termed an action of that sort "an immense historic error."

"The peoples of Latin America," he continued, "eager to have true democracy and a true system of social justice, see a great hope in the Nicaraguan revolution, and we're sure that they are prepared to protect that hope with their solidarity and their zeal, mobilizing to cut off any attack against our homeland."

At the beginning of his speech, he had said, "We have the longest experience of Yankee interventions. We haven't learned to defend our sovereignty by means of theoretical lucubrations, but rather in the most heroic of practices."

"Our nation, our nationality, our sovereignty, our territorial integrity, our national autonomy, as General Sandino used to say--We've always defended them, and we've consolidated them with arms and with the determination to use arms under any circumstances."

Armando Hart

As for the Cuban minister of culture, who also insisted on the meeting between Latin American and North American intellectuals, he said that intellectuals and talented, cultured men believe that it will be possible to avoid the stupidity and insanity of a nuclear war, toward which the North American imperialists are pushing.

"But to achieve that," he noted during his lengthy talk, "we need an extremely broad, deep mobilization of all the forces marching under the flag of those who love and create, and we must stay the criminal hands that in the atomic arsenals of the Yankee empire have signed on with those who hate and destroy.

"The United States won't find any grandeur whatever, but on the contrary will lose a great deal if it commits the criminal error of intervening in our territories."

"Jose Marti," he continued, "said that the United States will find a more certain grandeur in the development of its territory than with imperial dominion over the peoples of Latin America. By staying the hand seeking to draw the United States into intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, the North American people would at the same time be achieving an important victory for their own democracy.

"The final triumph of North American democracy over the forces of obscurantism and war will be one of the most extraordinary achievements in the history of humanity."

At the same time, he went on, the most reactionary imperialist circles must find out that we are not in the early years of the 20th century, and our peoples are not unarmed.

"They must learn that if they commit the error and crime of stepping into our affairs with rude interventions, as they have in previous decades, this time our peoples will know how and be able not only to defend themselves but also to attain a victory like the one achieved at Giron, in Cuba, or like the one accomplished by the heroic Vietnamese in the 1970's."

Greetings from Father Molina

Father Uriel Molina, who greeted the members of the Standing Committee as chairman of the local committee, said, "At times when large storm clouds from the north gather in our blue sky, your presence assumes a very special significance because it bears witness to the world of the commitment that you as intellectuals undertake regarding the right to self-determination that the people of Nicaragua succeeded in winning, with the historic sacrifice of their martyrs."

In turn, Mariano Rodriguez, chairman of the Standing Committee, described that body's purposes. He reported that since the committee's formation last year in Havana, numerous national committees have been organized in other countries.

Concerning the Managua meeting, he stated, "We are in the final struggle for the sovereignty of America, and that is why we're here."

Before the ceremony, held in the Cesar Augusto Silva Recreation Center, messages of solidarity were read that had been sent by members of the committee, such as Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes, former Dominican President Juan Bosch [as published] and Uruguayan poet Mario Benedetti [as published], as was a greeting from the Central American Anti-Imperialist Tribunal (TAC).

Other greetings to the committee, received at EL NUEVO DIARIO, came from the National Executive Committee of the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees], the Health Workers Federation, the Sandinist Childrens Association, the Nicaraguan Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples, the Agricultural Workers Association, the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Womens Association, and the National Confederation of Professionals (CONAPRO).

9085

CSO: 3010/1306

VIETNAMESE YOUTH LEADER HAILS REVOLUTION

PA200202 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Comrade Le Quang Vinh, a leader of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth [as heard--Bureau files list individual as president of the Vietnam Youth Federation] said this morning: We are very pleased with the results of our visit to Nicaragua at this time, when the Chinese expansionists and the imperialists are trying to destroy our revolution and when U.S. imperialism is also trying night and day to find a way to destroy the Nicaraguan process.

After spending 7 days in our country during which he told our revolutionary youth about his experiences in the struggle for the liberation of Vietnam, the Vietnamese leader left this morning.

During a news conference, Le Quang Vinh said that he had come from the heroic land of Vietnam as a delegate of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth to convey the organization's greeting and its promise of unconditional support.

The Vietnamese leader said that through this visit, he was able to verify the unity of all the Nicaraguan people and their determination to struggle to reconstruct the country and defend sovereignty.

Le Quang Vinh said that the unity of Nicaraguans and their heroism are an inspiration to the Vietnamese. In addition, he confirmed that the FSLN National Directorate has exercised and continues to exercise wise leadership, which has been one of the decisive factors in the accomplishments of the great Nicaraguan revolution.

The Vietnamese leader expressed his unconditional support for and admiration of our people and the youth of heroic Nicaragua. He said that he is convinced that U.S. imperialism will be defeated by Nicaragua as it was defeated in Vietnam.

Le Quang Vinh speaks for this station:

[Begin recording in Spanish] Therefore, we want to express our admiration of the Nicaraguan revolution and once again express our firm and unconditional support for the people and youth of heroic Nicaragua.

We are also firmly convinced that U.S. imperialism will be defeated here by the Nicaraguan people as it was defeated in Vietnam and that the heroic fraternal people of Nicaragua will win in any circumstances and under any conditions. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/1423

BRIEFS

CDS ENROLLMENT--According to the latest figures supplied by CDS executive official (Antonio Aguilar), the number of revolutionary militants as of 9 April had already reached 150,000 members, duly organized and controlled by the CDS Organization. [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Apr 82]

BATTALION 58-20 TRAINING--Carazo--Battalion 58-20 is ready to face aggressors and traitors. Battalion 58-20, from the heroic city of Diriamba, is training somewhere in Nicaragua. Its members are aware of the need for being armed and militarily trained to defend the revolution. A Battalion 58-20 platoon, returning from training, chanted slogans condemning traitor Eden Pastora. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 82]

BATTALION 25-52 RETURNS--Reservists of Battalion 25-52 of Ometepe Island have returned after spending 1 month in northern Nicaragua. A welcoming ceremony was held in Moyogalpa by the islanders. The outstanding work done by the battalion's 1st and 2d company during their stay in the north was stressed. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Apr 82]

COMMANDERS CALL PASTORA 'TRAITOR'--Eden Pastora cannot be considered a revolutionary because of his attitude against the people. He is endorsing the attacks by the Somozist bands that have murdered more than 100 peasants, militiamen, women and children. This statement was made yesterday by guerrilla commanders Javier Pichardo, Emmet Lang and Richard Lugo who, like Pastora, were Sandinist leaders in the southern front. The three commanders noted that if their names were mentioned in the Eden Pastora news conference, it was because a member of the traitor's security corps tried to get them involved in the plans against the revolution. They said that they reaffirm their Sandinist militancy and condemn Pastora's hostile position toward the revolution. Deputy Commander [as heard] Emmet Lang, who struggled against the dictatorship in the southern front, said it makes him sick to mention the name Eden Pastora, who without being in the country, denounced the alleged persecution against the Atlantic coast Miskitos, thus joining the slander campaign of imperialism. [Text] [PA180115 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 18 Apr 82]

PANAMANIAN YOUTH SUPPORT ORTEGA PLAN--The youth of Panama reject the imperialist aggression against Nicaragua and urge its government to maintain its stand to not allow the military bases [in Panama] to be used to send troops to their countries. Through a communique addressed to the youth of Nicaragua, the youth of Panama express their concern over the increasing preparations for U.S. military intervention in Central America, which are reflected in the naval maneuvers, the financing of Somozist bands, and the sending of military advisers to El Salvador. The Panamanian youth say that these actions are not intended to harm only the Sandinist revolution but to create conflict between the peoples of Honduras and Nicaragua to justify an invocation of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. In closing the Panamanian youth support the peace proposal that Commander Daniel Ortega, the coordinator of the National Reconstruction Government Junta, proposed to the UN Security Council. [Text] [PA161432 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Apr 82]

UPN CALLS FOR UNIFICATION--The Union of Journalists of Nicaragua has said that today more than ever the situation demands that all workers unite their efforts to ensure the defense of the fatherland. In a communique released in Managua, the UPN stated that an important factor in the struggle for peace and security of peoples is the firm determination of the working class, especially at this time when the criminal activities of imperialism have gone from words to action. The UPN stresses that actions directed by CIA and supported by counterrevolutionaries have begun to cause sabotage and bloodshed in our country. The UPN, as a member of the Nicaraguan Labor Coordination Organization, urges its members to participate in the 1 May celebrations, adding that they will be anti-imperialists, classist, and indicative of working class unity and--through the massive participation of workers--will show our unswerving determination to struggle for peace. [Text] [PA221401 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0600 GMT 21 Apr 82]

CSO: 3010/1422

BANKING OFFICIAL ON ADVANTAGES OF REAGAN AID PLAN

PA190017 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Excerpt] During today's meeting of 1982 annual Conference of Business Executives [CADE], Nicolas Ardito Barleta of the World Bank gave his opinion on the Caribbean Basin plan, or Reagan plan, in the following interview:

[Begin recording] The possibilities involved in the Caribbean Basin plan as announced by President Reagan should make us think about our national interests and how Panama can take advantage of the opportunities offered. Obviously the United States has launched this plan because it feels that the plan serves U.S. interests. However, the rest of our countries are not here only to satisfy the wishes of the United States, but to take advantage of the possibilities included in this plan and aid our own national interests.

The main feature of Mr Reagan's plan is the offer to open the U.S. market to exports from our countries during the next 10 years. As you know, this plan has three features: Open trade, incentives to U.S. investments in our countries and economic aid for some countries in the Caribbean Basin. I believe that the first is the most important to Panama; that is the possibility of entering the 200 million-person U.S. market to export Panamanian goods and services. I sincerely believe that because of its geographic position, historical experience, human resources and infrastructure Panama is the Caribbean Basin country in the best position to take advantage of the possibilities. [End recording]

(SO): 3010/1413

BRIEFS

DEBRAY MEETS PRESIDENT ROYO--Writer Regis Debray, personal envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, met privately with President Aristides Royo on Saturday and conveyed to him a special invitation to visit France the last week of June as guest of the French Government. Debray met with the Panamanian president for more than 1 hour to analyze the strife-torn Central American situation and the Malvinas issue, MATUTINO has learned from Foreign Ministry sources. The source said that Debray and Royo exchanged views on the Central American situation and European issues in view of both countries' interest in contributing peaceful solutions to current problems since Panama is member of the Security Council. Regis Debray, political adviser to President Mitterrand, arrived in Panama on Friday night amid strict secrecy from Mexico and left early yesterday morning for Managua, Nicaragua. No official communique was issued on the results of the meeting but it was described as a new form of Panamanian diplomacy consisting in establishing direct contacts with other governments through personal envoys. [Text] [PA192219 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 Apr 82 pp 1-A, 2-B]

CSO: 3010/1413

PETKOFF DISCUSSES ECONOMIC CRISIS, LEFTIST IMAGE

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Mar 82 p D-8

[Interview with MAS presidential candidate Teodoro Petkoff by Ruben Ferrer Rosas; date, time and place not given]

[Text] Maturin, 27 March--The critical situation in the country should be of great concern to all Venezuelans, because it is not an easy situation, in the opinion of Teodoro Petkoff, the presidential candidate of the Movement for Socialism (MAS). He was here to carry out promotional activities for his nomination.

After lunching with independents and meeting with agricultural producers, and in between, visiting the construction site of the Third National Games in this capital, Petkoff stated that "the prolonged economic crisis which has battered the country for the past 3 years, and which has been manifested in a very high cost of living, unemployment and economic stagnation, is now aggravated even further by the drop in fiscal revenues resulting from the fall in oil prices."

"There is a joke going around that says that the Social Christians raised prices on all the food, and the only price they can lower is that of petroleum. Of course it is very unfair to blame them for not foreseeing what was obviously coming, and now that lack of foresight has caused the government to scramble for ways to readjust spending in order to cope with the cut in its income."

Petkoff feels that the fiscal crisis is aggravating the already difficult economic situation that has been plaguing the country, which had been kept from escalating by oil revenues.

[Question] What is the best solution for this country?

[Answer] The best thing for this country is completely different from what the government is doing. Judging by the incoherence of its economic policy, it appears that the government does not have clear objectives, and everything will come apart at the seams at the slightest pressure. The only thing it can do now to cut spending is to hit social programs and lay off public administration personnel.

Petkoff asserts that following this path, "the only thing we will find is the aggravation of the overall economic situation, with a worsening of unemployment."

"No solution in Venezuela can be divorced from short-term measures that are closely tied to long-term ones. For example, a reduction in the size of the bureaucracy, which is so big that it swallows 60 percent of the country's income, cannot be done overnight by throwing people out in the street. That would merely create unemployment. It must be done in the medium and long term, while simultaneously creating an employment-oriented economy that absorbs jobs."

Petkoff believes that short-term readjustments should be made. And there is a wide swath that could be cut, but that is precisely where the government will not cut:

"Government propaganda, which is unnecessary, is very large: some billion bolivars a year; the lack of maintenance of government mechanical equipment; unnecessary travel; unnecessary celebrations; all these could provide substantial savings if accompanied by a long-term policy, and thus we could come to grips with the situation. It is a matter of revamping the government's economic policy."

Petkoff is pessimistic; he feels that the way things are going, the government will do things to exacerbate the situation.

[Question] How does Petkoff see the latest polls?

[Answer] For me, these polls are very clear. I believe that surveys always photograph a single moment. They can change, and they will.

[Question] How do you explain the decline of the left?

[Answer] It can be explained very easily. At present it has a negative image for the country. This image of guerrilla warfare, of problems with disunity, of confrontations, etc., obviously makes any citizen who is asked about his voting intentions, feel that at this time it is not worth the trouble to vote for the left.

Sure of Victory

However, Petkoff still believes that there are prospects for unity. He claims that elections can and should take place, although he--like many others, according to him--feels pessimistic about this process.

"Because it has been very muddled; there have been too many obstacles. There are sectors that do not want unity and are working against it. But lately there has been renewed optimism."

[Question] Do you believe it will triumph?

Answer I always work from one premise: I have the primaries in the bag. If MAS loses the primaries, it will be like a political earthquake. I don't see how we could lose the elections even if we wanted to. We are a national party with a national organization that reaches the far corners of the country. The surveys, on the other hand, reveal that the former stature of Dr Rangel has eroded considerably."

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CSO: 3010/1357

RANGEL CANDIDACY GETS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Caracas TRIBUNA POPULAR in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p 7

[Text] At a representative gathering held in the administrative building of the National Congress the morning of last 22 March, the Committees for the Unity of the People (CUP) announced their support for the candidacy of Jose Vicente Rangel for the leftist primaries.

The CUP delegation was headed by Directors Ali Primera, Luis Cipriano Rodriguez and Antonio Acosta Marquez. In addition, there were Ismael Villalobos of Falcon, Efrain Brujes of Zulia, Luis Centeno of Monagas, and Nerio Chirinos of Carabobo.

Singer Ali Primera explained the reasons for the support, and he was accompanied on the presidium by the unity candidate, Jose Vicente Rangel; former candidates Hector Mujica of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) and Americo Martin of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR); Carmelo Laborit, leader of the Socialist League; Luis Cipriano Rodriguez (CUP); and Antonio Jose Herera, Doris Francia, Miguel Ugas and Raul Este.

Also present were representatives of "Los Guaraguao," the "Ahora" group and Chiche Manaure, which are members of the CUP involved in singing and cultural efforts.

The event was also strengthened by the presence of representatives of the neighborhoods of La Vega and Los Frailes in Caracas, and Brisas del Sur, Antonio Jose of Sucre, and Bella Vista of Valencia. Among those present were workers, housewives, unemployed workers, and students.

The leaders of the CUP explained that they are not joining the "New Alternative," but are supporting Rangel's candidacy.

Speeches

Ali Primera emphasized that support for Jose Vicente does not mean that any of the other pre-candidates is being shunned; just that he synthesizes and expresses the unifying efforts of vast social, political and cultural sectors.

"In addition, Jose Vicente Rangel represents the struggle for the defense of human rights among our people, who have been abused, oppressed and mistreated by successive governments," stated Ali.

In an emotional speech, Jose Vicente expressed his satisfaction with the significant support of the CUP and the popular culture groups present, "not as material for the electoral spectacle, but as the integration of valuable fighters in the struggle for unity; with reference not to unity in the abstract, but to unity for the anti-imperialist and anticapitalist struggle, for solidarity with Central America, with the underprivileged and the unemployed, against the high cost of living. . ."

He added that he will receive this support with the same criterion already stated on other occasions: that participation in his campaign must be done on an equal basis, not based on the number of votes obtained in the past.

More Support

Another indication of the growth of Rangel's leftist primary campaign is the support he has been receiving from leaders of working class groups such as metallurgical worker and union leader Carlos Blanco, who announced his support in a public letter addressed to workers in the La Trinidad Industrial Zone.

The document contains a series of observations concerning his decision and Jose Vicente Rangel's career. It states that the fundamental elements of the unity candidate's program "respond to the interests of the vast majority of the population."

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RANGEL DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Mar 82 p D-3

[Article by Jose Carrillo Romero]

[Text] Puerto Ordaz, 25 March--Dr Jose Vicente Rangel believes that the magnitude of the social, economic and fiscal crisis the country is undergoing, demands a vast national effort to seek solutions, not just with partial measures or small budget readjustments, but with a distinct vision defined by the idea that we have begun the post-petroleum stage.

The pre-candidate for the leftist presidential primaries feels that the country's crisis has translated into an unemployment rate of about 16 percent; a recession which in the first quarter of 1982 has thrown more than 1,000 small and medium businesses into bankruptcy and put a similar number into a suspension of payments situation; the exodus of \$6 billion in foreign currency reserves with an average daily purchase of \$150 million in banks; and a fiscal deficit of approximately 30 billion bolivars.

"We are not prepared socially, administratively or mentally for this post-petroleum stage. For example, I agree that the salaries of members of parliament should be lowered, but in and of itself, that measure would not resolve anything. I think we must cut the salaries of upper-level civil servants who earn more than 10,000 bolivars a month by 10 percent, but that isn't a solution all by itself either."

In the opinion of Dr Rangel, the solution lies in a new economic model, a new kind of Public Administration, and a different way of distributing income.

"With the oil bonanza, 90 percent of the population lived in poverty; hence, for the people of Venezuela, the problem is not the National Treasury's level of revenues. What is needed is for the Venezuelan Government to have a policy that is the product of a consensus, so that it can be carried out by the administration that is in office at the time, no matter what its political persuasion," said Rangel.

The presidential pre-candidate continued with that subject, stating that there is no reason why at this time, given the magnitude of the crisis, which has even seriously jeopardized institutional stability, President

Herrera has no permanent forum for meeting with the diverse representatives of the collectivity, the government and the opposition, from different political and party viewpoints, and different economic, academic and social sectors.

"The fact that there has still been no top-level meeting with men such as Uslar Pietri, Ramon J. Velasquez, Maza Zavala, Malave Mata, Hernandez Grisanti, Ivan Pulido Mora, Anibal Martinez, and others, who predicted what is happening economically and fiscally and can provide major contributions to the design of an alternative policy in this crisis, reflects very badly on the president's sense of responsibility."

Primary Elections

For Dr Rangel, if the previous registration requirement is eliminated, the leftist primaries can take place in 2 months.

"I wish it were that way; otherwise, we would have to wait till the end of the year, which puts the left at a disadvantage with respect to Democratic Action (AD) and the Social Christians (COPEI). I want them to take place as soon as possible, and I want guarantees of adherence to the results, no matter what they are. For me, the most important thing is that there be just one candidate; if there is more than one, the Venezuelan left will be even more unsuccessful than the Colombian left was in their recent elections," added Jose Vicente Rangel.

Dr Rangel arrived in this city today to make a political tour this weekend in the Iron Zone.

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CSO: 3010/1357

MIR-MOLEIRO DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT'S LAY-OFF PLAN

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 25 Mar 82 p D-3

[Text] The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR-Moleiro) accused the government of trying to lay off 230,000 civil service employees. The political group rejects this measure as an assault on the right to work, which is guaranteed in our Constitution. It also says the government is trying to make workers bear "the entire burden of the fiscal crisis caused by the constant errors and miscalculations of our state planners."

Deputy Hector Perez Marciano, secretary general of the MIR-Moleiro, mentioned this administration's refusal to report the truth about the real impact of the substantial cut of at least 20 billion bolivars from the Venezuelan national budget as a result of the current oil situation.

"The national government," noted Perez Marciano, "has stubbornly refused to duly inform the nation of the crisis we face. This has led to a sea of confusion, a climate of uncertainty. Far from creating an atmosphere of serenity in coping with problems, as they assert, they have raised the insecurity and fear of the people dramatically."

Perez Marciano claimed that at the recent meeting in Bonaire, attended by government and Social Christian officials, it was agreed that at least 20 percent of the civil service would be laid off. "If we consider," added the MIR leader, "that according to the OCP there are approximately 1,150,000 civil servants in the government's employ, the reduction would affect 230,000 people, throwing them into the street."

"In view of this situation, we propose a special day of support for the Labor and Wage Stability Law. We also support tax reform, which is demanded by all national sectors and would be enough to alleviate the loss of oil revenues."

The MIR-Moleiro leader also expressed disagreement with the statements of the vice-minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, to the effect that foreign investment would be resorted to in order to solve the current crisis. This would mean "accentuating our economic dependency on foreign capital, because all social infrastructure projects, such as highways, parks, hospitals, etc., would be financed with foreign capital. The administration would be under their orders until the rates charged for the use of

those services paid off the investments made by foreign consortia." Perez Marcano cited the bridge to Margarita as an example of projects proposed for financing through that foreign investment plan.

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